

# Historical Society Artifact Collection



By: Dale C. Maley

Fairbury, Illinois

Feb 2023

# Historical Society Artifact Collection

## Artifact Locations:

1. Jones House and contents
2. Strevell House and contents
3. Old Courthouse Room (420 square feet)
4. New City Hall Basement  
“Dungeon”  
1,254 square feet

NOTE: Yost House and contents are owned by the City of Pontiac.

# Historical Society Artifact Collection

## Issues with Dungeon:

1. No volunteers want to work there
2. There are 13 steps down to the dungeon
3. Restrooms out-of-service for many years  
(use City Hall restrooms upstairs or walk 1 block north to public restrooms)
4. Incoming items have not been processed since 2017
  - Incoming material area packed full
  - Two 4x8 foot plywood tables packed full

# Historical Society Artifact Collection



Top landing full



Ice  
cream  
maker  
with no  
can

1 of 2 tables  
packed full



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Incoming Receiving Area Over-Flowing



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- Windows 95 computer and scanner
- Database program installed, but no data entered
- Went to Fairbury Electronics Recycling

# Historical Society Artifact Collection



- Started in northwest corner and went rack-by-rack
- Left old number tags and assigned new number, noted old number if available

# Historical Society Artifact Collection



- Found enough Interlake steel to add 1 rack
- All guns, swords, knives fit on shelf of new rack



# Historical Society Artifact Collection



- Sawed Interlake rack in Fairbury garage 😊

# Historical Society Artifact Collection



- All guns/swords on 1 new shelf

# Historical Society Artifact Collection



Before

After





# Historical Society Artifact Collection



Before

After



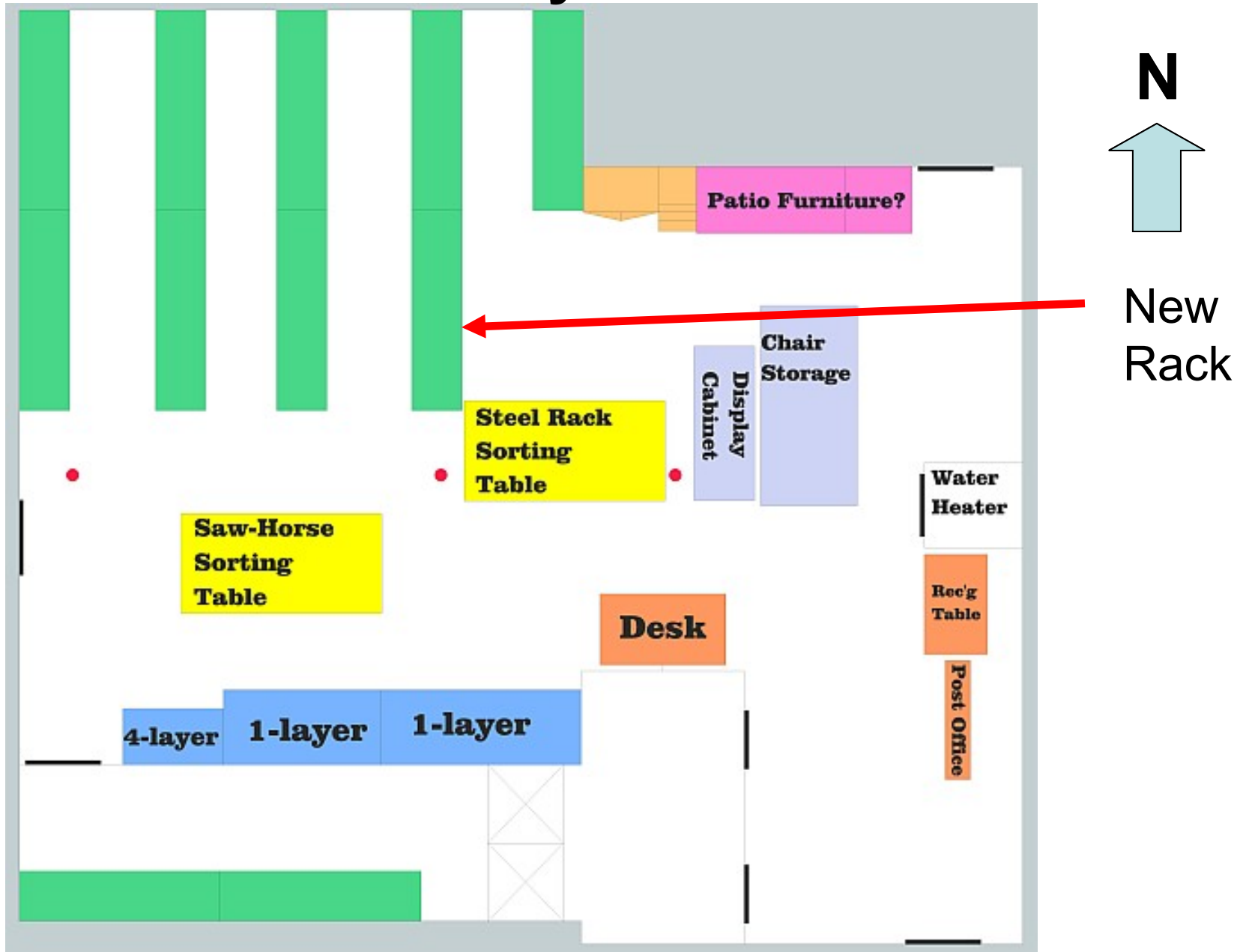


# Historical Society Artifact Collection



**1254 Square Feet**

# Historical Society Artifact Collection



# Historical Society Artifact Collection



1940's patio furniture should be thrown away

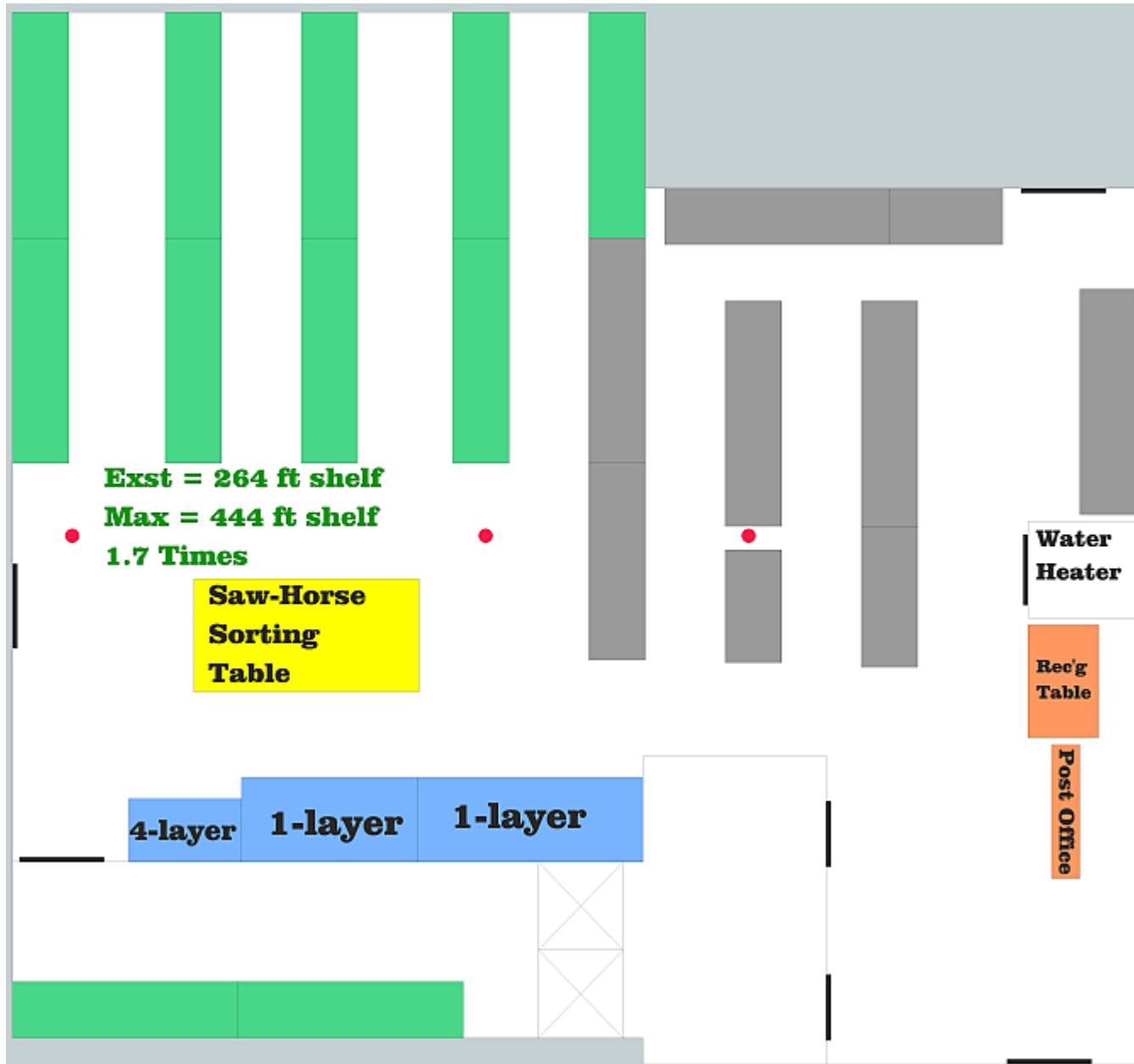
# Historical Society Artifact Collection



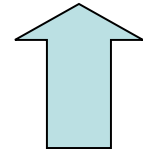
Display Cabinet should be thrown away



# Historical Society Artifact Collection



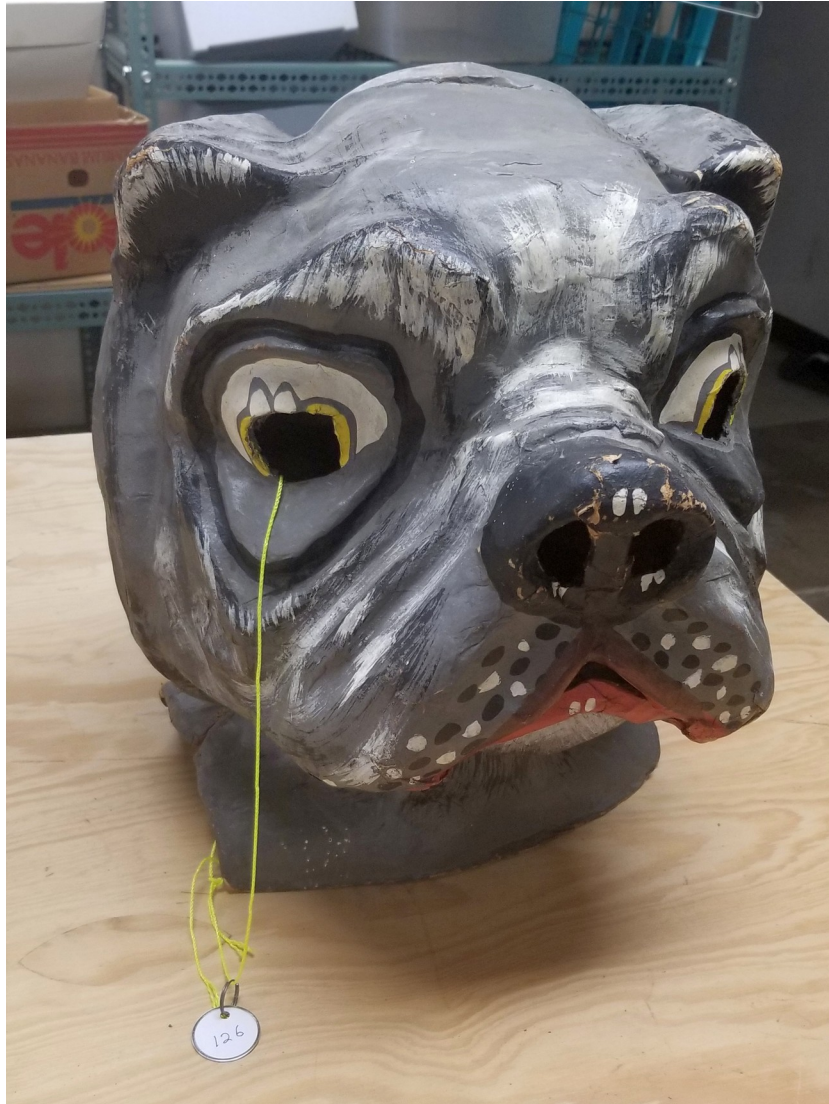
N



- New racks in Grey
- Plenty of room for expansion
- Can you still buy Interlake rack?

# Historical Society Artifact Collection

## Interesting “Finds”



- Winston Churchill college Mascot

- 1965-1971

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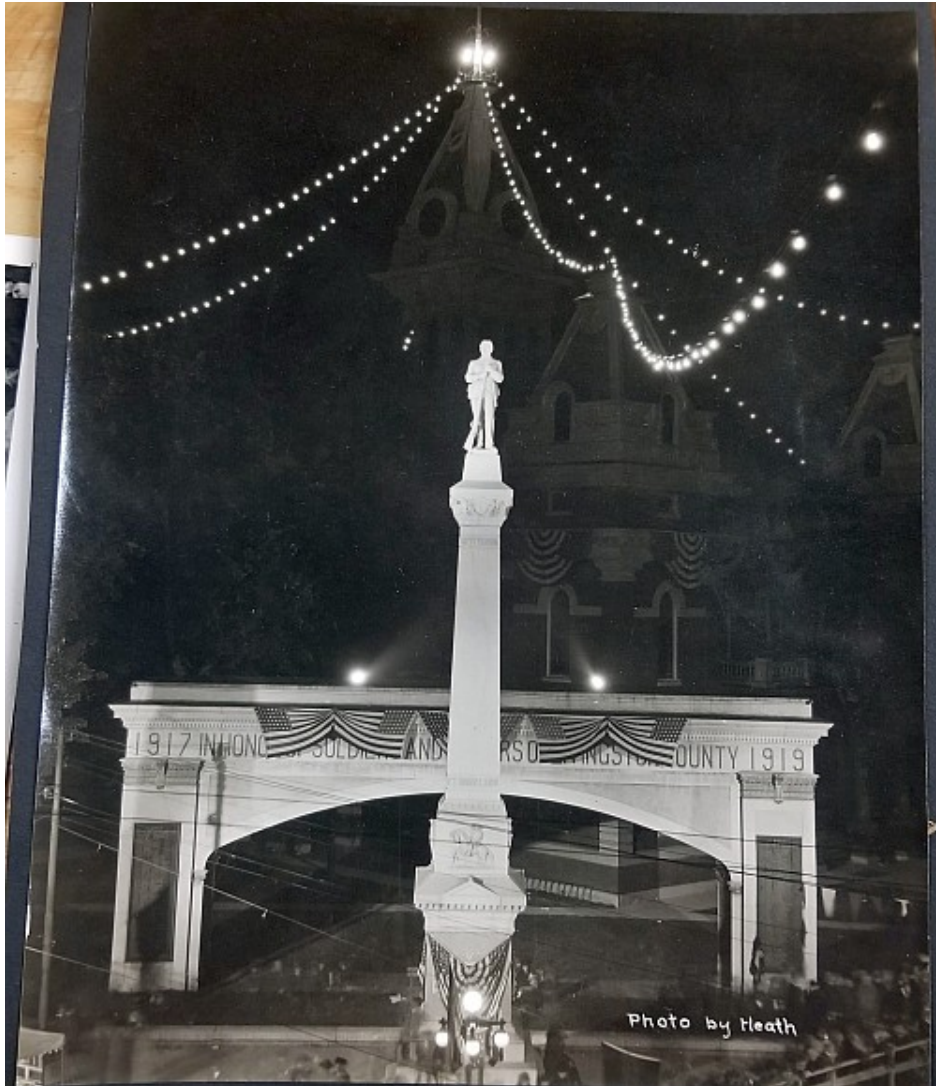
## Interesting “Finds”





# Historical Society Artifact Collection

## Interesting “Finds”

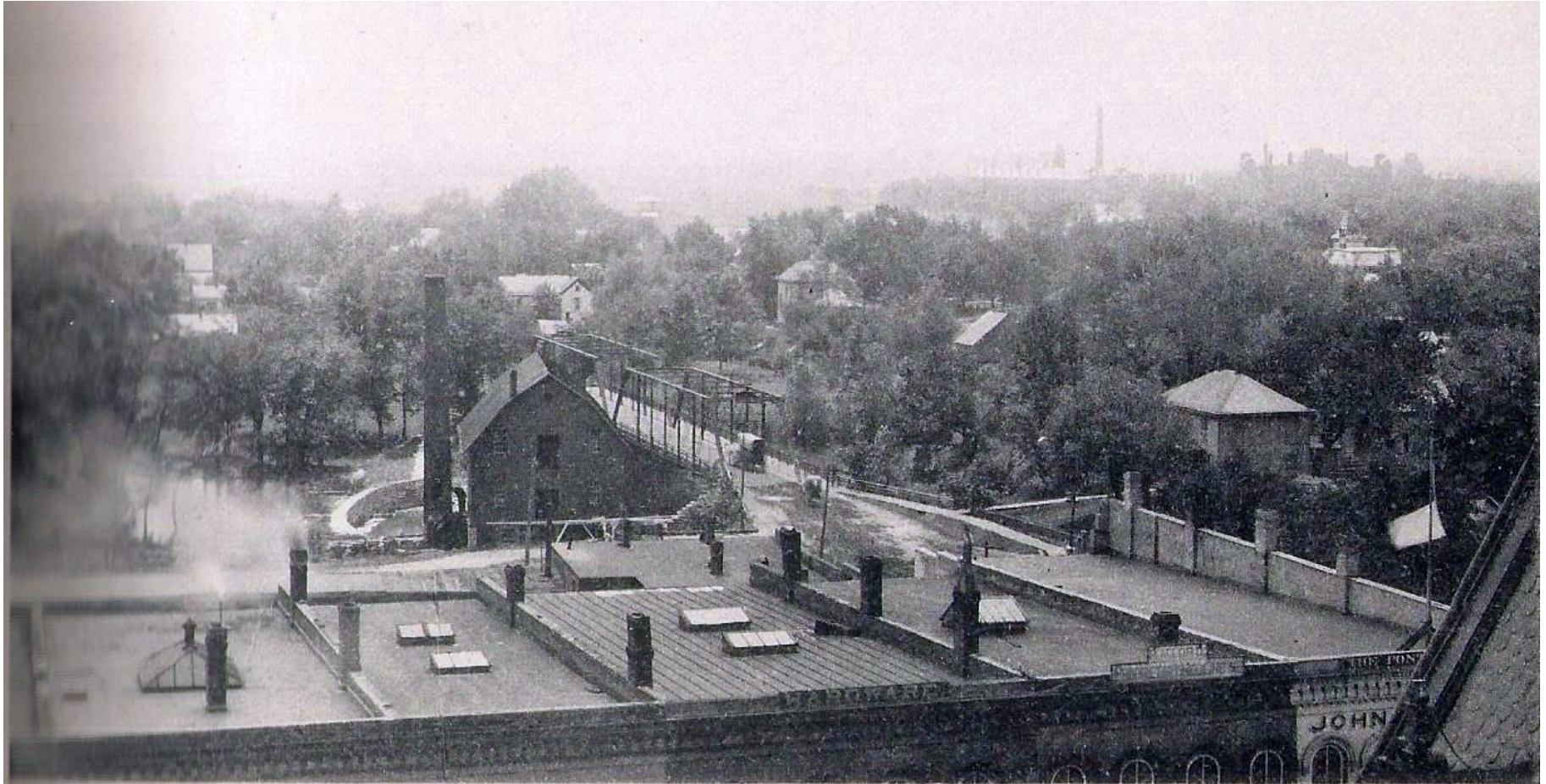


Never seen  
night-time  
scene



# Historical Society Artifact Collection

## Interesting “Finds”



SOUTH-WEST FROM COURT HOUSE TOWER.

1895

# Historical Society Artifact Collection

## Interesting “Finds”



Pontiac Post Office?    Millstone & Oxen Yoke



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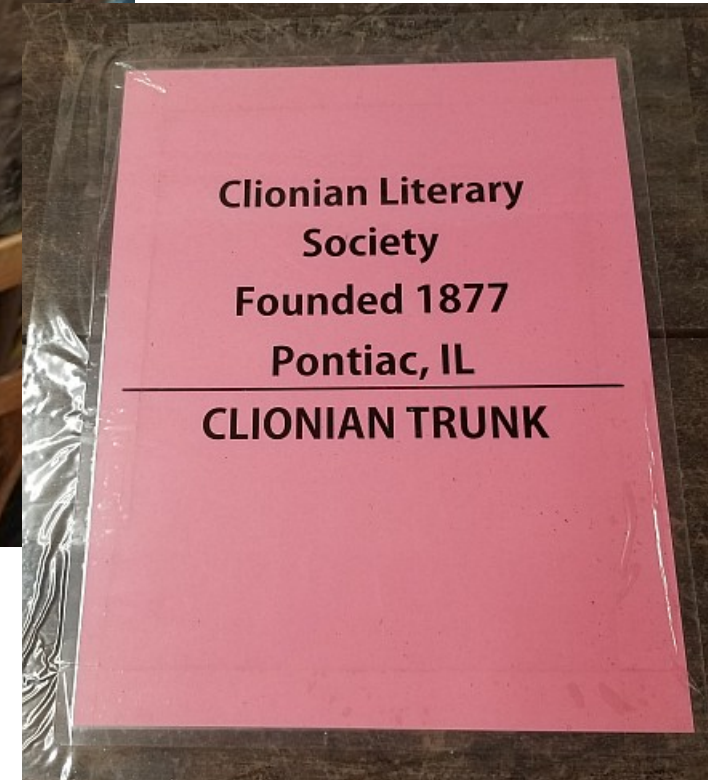
Donated to Livingston County Historical Society by  
Mrs. James Carroll who said it was the Pontiac Shoe  
Factory in the 1920s. A family member is in the photo, sister's cousin.

# Historical Society Artifact Collection





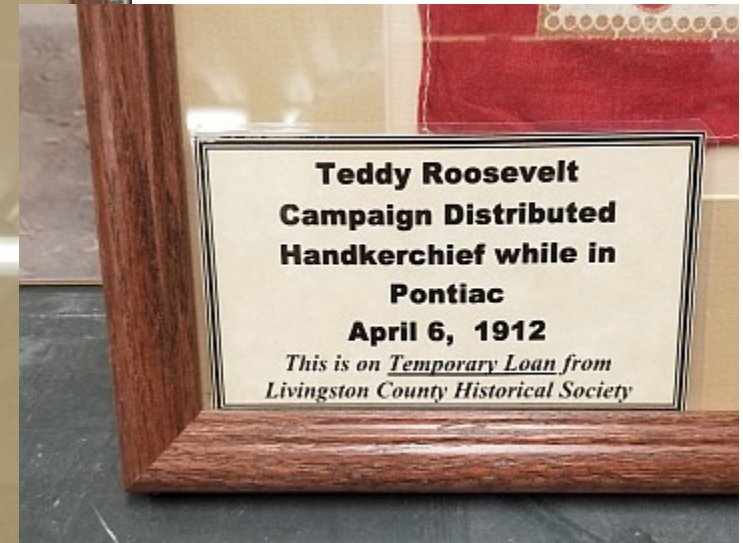
# Historical Society Artifact Collection



# Historical Society Artifact Collection



**Teddy Roosevelt  
Campaign Distributed  
Handkerchief while in  
Pontiac  
April 6, 1912**  
*This is on Temporary Loan from  
Livingston County Historical Society*



**Teddy Roosevelt  
Campaign Distributed  
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# Historical Society Artifact Collection



# Historical Society Artifact Collection



Rare D-shaped  
field tile

Dirt collected on  
flat bottom, was  
replaced by  
round tile



# Historical Society Artifact Collection



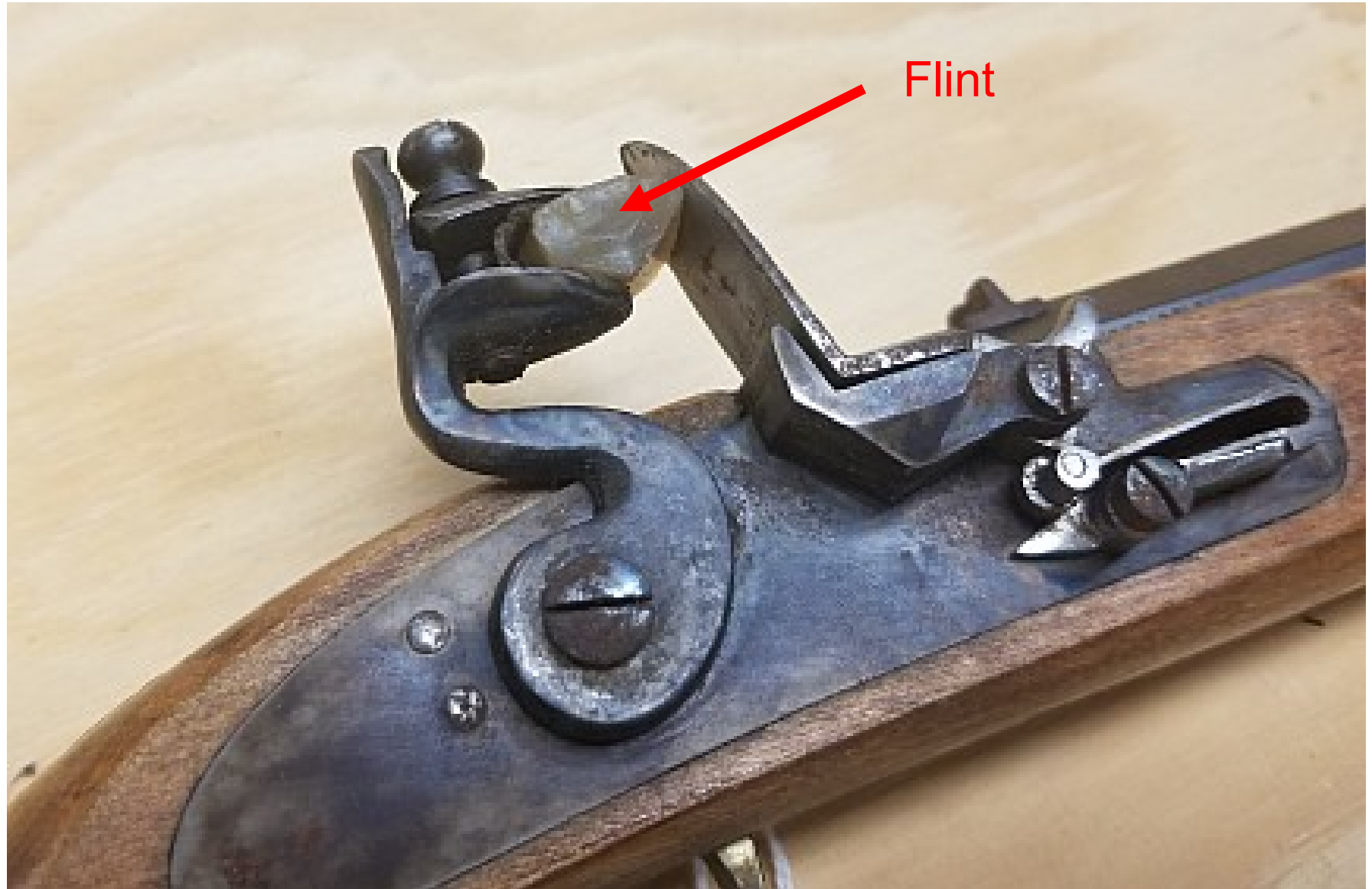
Revolutionary War  
leather water cup

Amazing that  
leather has not  
disintegrated after  
243 years !!

# Historical Society Artifact Collection



# Historical Society Artifact Collection

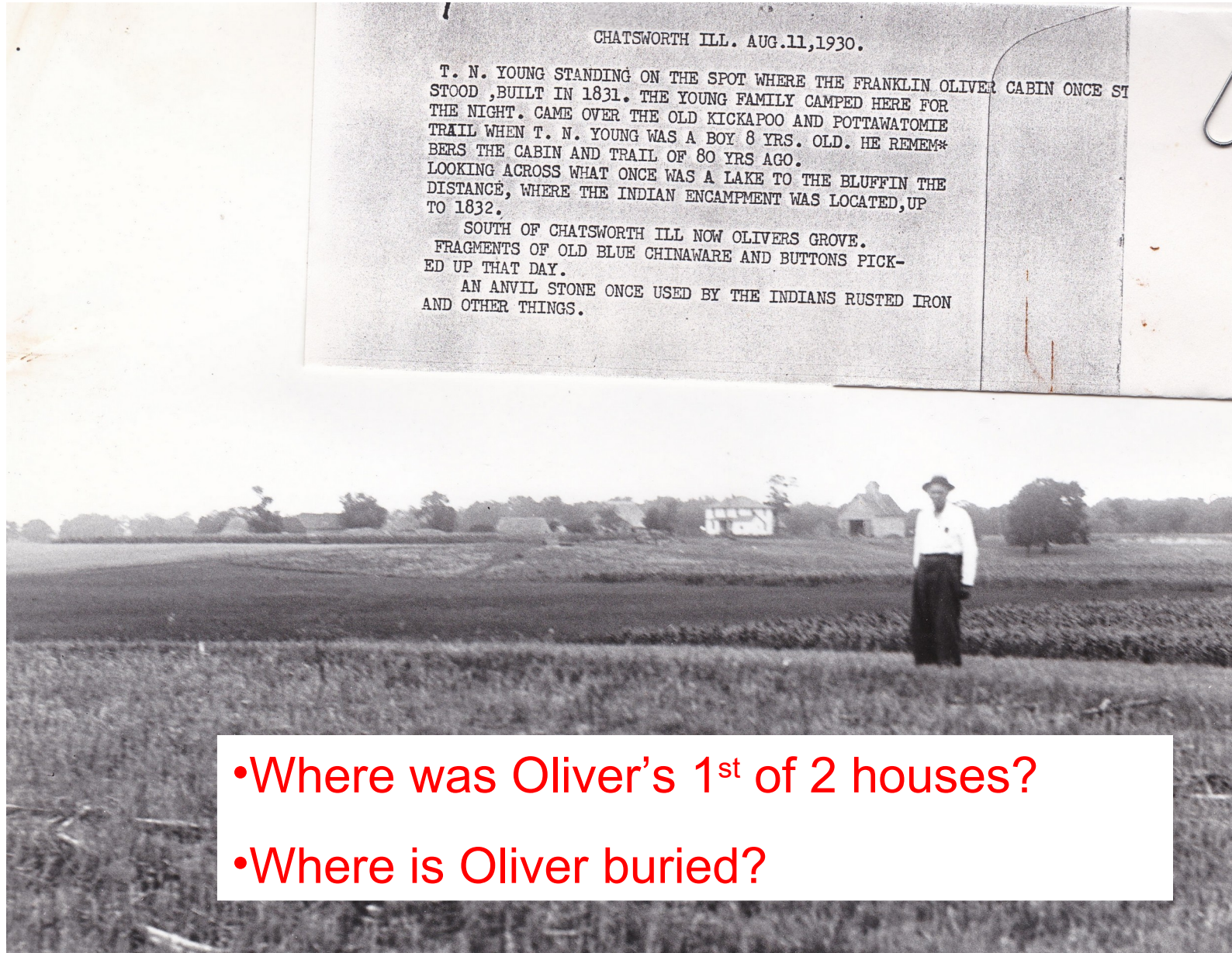


# Historical Society Artifact Collection





# Historical Society Artifact Collection



- Where was Oliver's 1<sup>st</sup> of 2 houses?
- Where is Oliver buried?

# Historical Society Artifact Collection

Artifacts stored in Dungeon in basement of Pontiac City Hall

		Updated By:	Dale C. Maley
		Last Update:	<b>2/1/2023</b>
		Rack numbering starts with Rack 1 on the West Wall	
New Number	Old Number	Location	Description
52	H-04-04-0028	R1	short handle cleaver
53	H-04-06-0029	R1	broad axe
54	H-04-01-0020	R1	bucket and pulley wheel
55	H-04-06-0031	R1	froe without wood handle
56	H-04-06-0002	R1	broad axe without wood handle
57	H-04-0028	R1	short handle cleaver
58	H-04-06-0030	R1	steel yard
59	H-04-01-0003	R1	thin steel scythe
60	H-05-17-0001	R1	fire hatchet
61	H-04-06-0026	R1	Firewood splitting cleaver

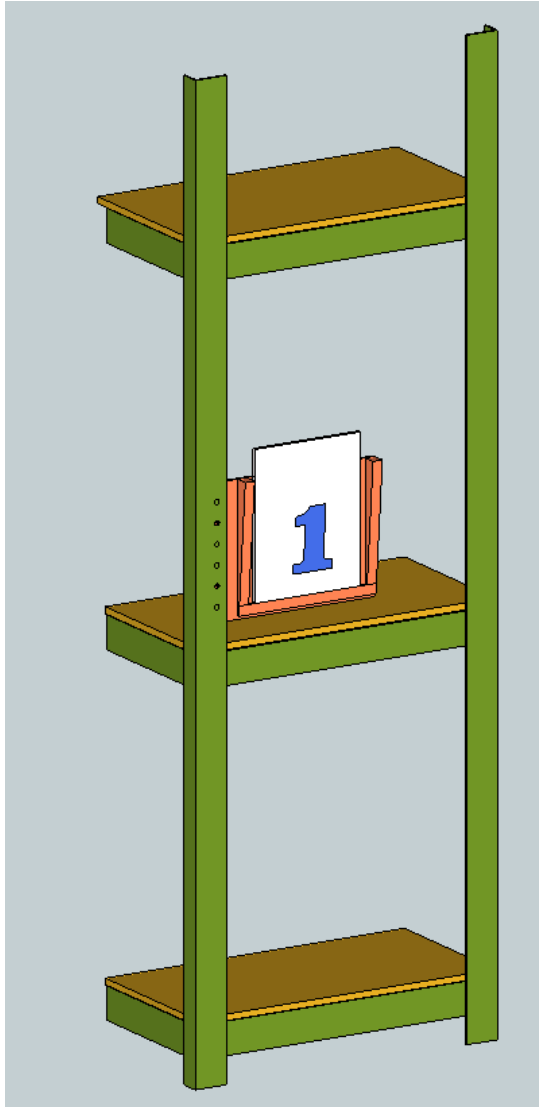
**401 Items Total**

# Historical Society Artifact Collection

Month	Day	Hrs	Comments		
Jan	13	4			
	14	4			
	15	4			
	16	8			
	17	8			
	18	8			
	19	2	Creating inventory spreadsheet at home		
	20	7			
	21	5			
	23	8	hailed trash to dumpster		
	24	6	finished typing inventory at home		
	25	0	snow day		
	26	8			
	27	8			
	28	2	made 1st sign holder		
	29	0			
	30	6	making sign holders		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>			

•How long did it take?

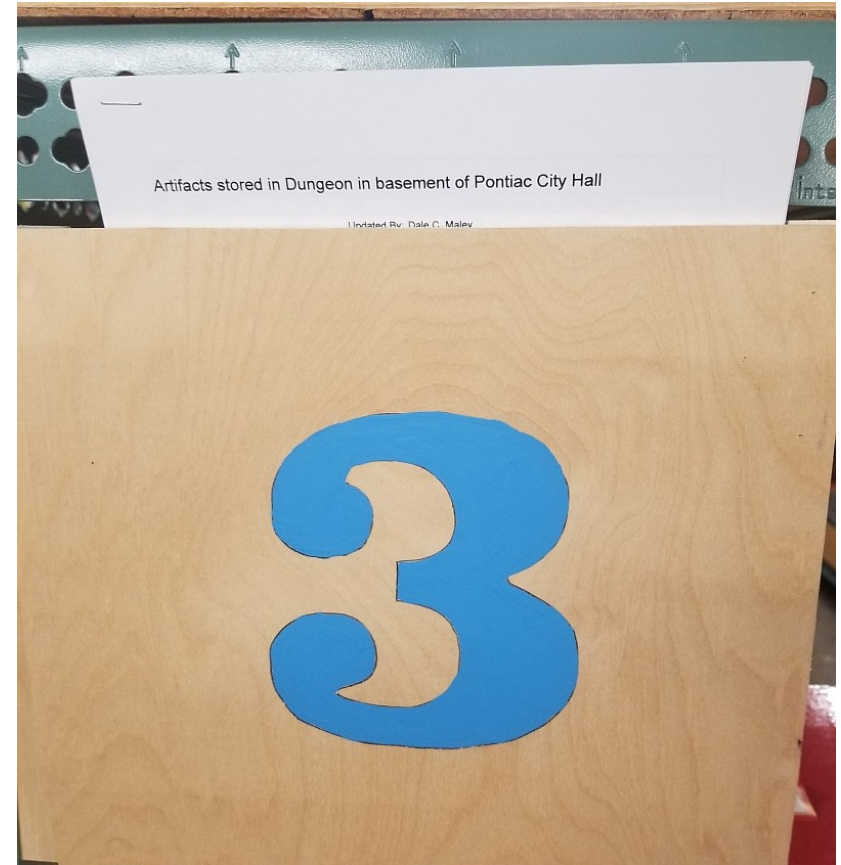
# Historical Society Artifact Collection



- Each of 5 racks has wood holder for paper inventory list by rack



# Historical Society Artifact Collection



# Historical Society Artifact Collection

## General Observations:

- Small collection, only 400 items
  - Fairbury Echoes Museum has 3,696 items
- Relatively few items are traceable to an owner in Livingston County
  - On all the guns, swords, knives, only 1 traceable to a particular owner.
    - He was Doctor, might have been just a gun collector
- Most items are from Pontiac or small towns with no museum
  - Almost no items from Fairbury, Chenoa, Cornell

# Historical Society Artifact Collection

## Rare Documents:

- Have been scanning and uploading to Archive.Org
- Huge web site, massive non-profit
  - Allows storage for free
  - Backs Up Entire Internet
- Use for Fairbury Echoes Museum & LCHS
- Hopefully, organization will exist for many future years

# Historical Society Artifact Collection

## Future Steps:

1. Dispose of patio furniture/display case. Install more rack.
2. Work on scanning in more items and store at Archive.Org
3. Books are now in one location. Catalog & set-up library
4. Add 5-drawer filing cabinet, set up folders by topic. Scan to Archive.Org
5. Consider selling all guns/knives at auction house – with Board Ok -no known owners, will continue to rust away in basement



# Historical Society Artifact Collection

## Summary:

1. I thought it would take 40 to 80 hours  
-took 88 hours
2. Plan on reviewing each January to make sure we keep up with incoming items

# Historical Society Artifact Collection

Questions?

